

Claims

- [c1] An automotive interior trim assembly comprising:
- a substrate member forming at least part of a structural support of the trim assembly;
 - a flexible skin overlying at least a portion of said substrate member and coupled to said substrate member, said flexible skin and said substrate member defining a cavity having an opening;
 - a back plate mounted to said substrate member for covering said cavity opening; and
 - a resilient foam pad contained within a pouch and positioned within said cavity to provide a soft feel to the trim assembly, said foam pad insertable in said cavity when said foam pad is in a compressed state, said foam pad adapted to expand so as to substantially fill said cavity.
- [c2] The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said back plate includes an aperture therethrough adapted to receive a piercing member for piercing said pouch.
- [c3] The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said foam pad comprises:
- a first portion being an open cell foam; and
 - a second portion being a closed cell foam.

- [c4] The trim assembly of claim 3, wherein said foam pad has an upper and lower portion, said open cell foam is in said upper portion and said closed cell foam is in said lower portion.
- [c5] The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said flexible skin is integrally molded to said substrate member.
- [c6] The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said flexible skin includes a tab, said back plate includes a recess, said tab engaging said recess to couple said flexible skin to said back plate.
- [c7] The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said pouch is adhered to said flexible skin.
- [c8] The trim assembly of claim 1 configured as an armrest for an automobile.
- [c9] An automotive door trim assembly, comprising:
 - an interior door trim panel adapted to be secured to an automobile door; and
 - an armrest assembly, comprising:
 - a substrate member forming at least part of a structural support of said armrest assembly and mounted to said interior door trim panel;
 - a flexible skin overlying at least a portion of said sub-

strate member and coupled to said substrate member, said flexible skin and said substrate member defining a cavity having an opening;
a back plate mounted to said substrate member for covering said cavity opening; and
a resilient foam pad contained within a pouch and positioned within said cavity to provide a soft feel to the trim assembly, said foam pad insertable in said cavity when said foam pad is in a compressed state, said foam pad adapted to expand so as to substantially fill said cavity.

[c10] A method of inserting a resilient foam pad within a cavity of an automotive trim assembly, the method comprising:
placing the foam pad within a pouch;
compressing the resilient foam pad;
sealing the pouch so that the foam pad remains in a compressed state;
inserting the pouch containing the compressed foam pad through an opening in the cavity; and
expanding the foam pad within in the cavity.

[c11] The method of claim 10 further comprising:
placing a back plate over the opening of the cavity; and
securing the back plate to a substrate member of the trim assembly.

[c12] The method of claim 10, wherein compressing the re-

silient foam pad comprises:

placing the foam pad under vacuum within the pouch.

[c13] The method of claim 12, wherein expanding the foam pad within the cavity comprises:
relieving the vacuum by piercing the pouch.

[c14] The method of claim 13 further comprising:
removing a release film from an inner surface of the cavity to expose an adhesive surface prior to expanding the foam pad within the cavity.